

SECRET  
INFORMATION REPORT  
CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 13 July 1948

SUBJECT Bulgarski Morski Flot  
(Bulgarian Maritime Fleet)  
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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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- 756.5 / 20M
1. A law has been enacted in Bulgaria recently for the creation of the Bulgarski Morski Flot (Bulgarian Maritime Fleet), a government controlled organization for the operation of the Bulgarian Merchant Marine. This organization has absorbed the Postoyanstvo, a private company which operated under contract to the government, and the Bulgarski Kraybrezhno Pluvane, a company engaged in coastal navigation.  
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  2. [REDACTED] the Bulgarski Morski Flot grew out of a struggle between Moscow and Sofia. Moscow insisted on the establishment of this organization, and further requested the establishment of a combined fleet, composed of Soviet passenger and cargo ships and some small Bulgarian ships, which would be called the Soviet-Bulgar Maritime Fleet. However, Vice-President of the Chamber Traicho Kostov, the influential Communist who conducted these negotiations, took a definite stand against Moscow and insisted on the creation of a Bulgarian national fleet, and not a mixed fleet. Because of his influence this was agreed upon, and another convention was signed permitting the operation of Soviet ships between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union. It is believed, however, that Russia will again propose the creation of a joint fleet at a later date. In the meantime, Soviet ships are completely free to engage in trade between Bulgarian ports, since the Bulgarian fleet is insufficient for Bulgarian needs. Soviet engineers and specialists are already controlling and directing the Bulgarian Merchant Marine, and are established in the shipyards.
  3. Treno Ivanov, an influential member of the Communist Party, will be Director of Administration of the Bulgarski Morski Flot. Ivanov is a graduate of the Varna Naval Academy, a retired naval officer, and was, at one time, Master of the Merchant Marine. Gheorghi Ghenov, also a member of the Communist Party, will be appointed Director of the Administration of Harbors. Ghenov is not as influential as Ivanov, but he is considered a better technician.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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